Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A metal halide lamp comprising a substantially cylindrical discharge vessel (3) having an internal diameter Di < 2.0 mm and filled with an ionizable filling, wherein two electrodes are present at a mutual distance EA for maintaining a discharge in the discharge vessel, wherein the filling comprises an inert gas such as Xe having a pressure at room temperature between 5 and 25 bar, and an ionizable salt, characterized in that said ionizable salt is selected from the group comprising PrI_3, NdI_3 and LuI_3.

2. (original) A lamp according to claim 1, wherein said ionizable salt further comprises NaI, and wherein the molar ratio $NaI/(PrI_3 + NdI_3 + LuI_3)$ lies between 1.0 and 10.3.

3. (currently amended) A lamp according to claim 2, wherein the molar ratio NaI/PrI_3 lies between 2.3 and 10.3~~, preferably between 3.0 and 5.7, and more preferably is approximately 3.5~~.

4. (currently amended) A lamp according to claim 1, wherein the amount of PrI_3 in the discharge vessel is between 10 and 335 $\mu mol/cm^3$~~, preferably between 25 and 160 $\mu mol/cm^3$, more preferably approximately 50 $\mu mol/cm^3$~~.

5. (currently amended) A lamp according to claim 2, wherein the molar ratio NaI/NdI_3 lies between 3.0 and 6.7~~, preferably between 3.6 and 4.8, and more preferably is approximately 4.2~~.

6. (currently amended) A lamp according to claim 1, wherein the amount of NdI_3 in the discharge vessel is between 8 and 301 $\mu mol/cm^3$~~, preferably between 30 and 167 $\mu mol/cm^3$, more preferably approximately 45 $\mu mol/cm^3$~~.

7. (currently amended) A lamp according to claim 2, wherein the molar ratio NaI/LuI_3 lies between 1.0 and 3.2~~, preferably between 1.2 and 1.8, and more preferably is approximately 1.4~~.

8. (currently amended) A lamp according to claim 1, wherein the amount of LuI_3 in the discharge vessel is between 15 and 414 $\mu mol/cm^3$~~, preferably between 27 and 230 $\mu mol/cm^3$, more preferably approximately 69 $\mu mol/cm^3$~~.

9. (previously presented) A lamp according to claim 1, wherein $Di < 1.5$ mm.

10. (previously presented) A lamp according to claim 1, wherein EA lies between 3 mm and 7 mm.

11. (previously presented) A lamp according to claim 1, wherein the discharge vessel has a ceramic wall.

12. (previously presented) A lamp according to claim 1, wherein the discharge vessel is surrounded by a gas-filled outer bulb.

13. (previously presented) A lamp according to claim 1, wherein the lamp power lies between 20 W and 40 W.

14. (currently amended) A metal halide lamp comprising a substantially cylindrical discharge vessel (3) having an internal diameter Di < 2.0 mm and filled with an ionizable filling, wherein two electrodes are present at a mutual distance EA for maintaining a discharge in the discharge vessel, wherein the filling comprises an inert gas such as Xe having a pressure at room temperature between 5 and 25 bar, and an ionizable salt selected from the group comprising PrI_3, NdI_3 and LuI_3, wherein the amount of NdI_3 in the discharge vessel is between 8 and 301 μmol/cm^3~~, preferably between 30 and 167 μmol/cm^3, more preferably approximately 45 μmol/cm^3~~.

15. (currently amended) A metal halide lamp comprising a substantially cylindrical discharge vessel (3) having an internal diameter Di < 2.0 mm and filled with an ionizable filling, wherein two electrodes are present at a mutual distance EA for maintaining a discharge in the discharge vessel, wherein the filling comprises an inert gas such as Xe having a pressure at room temperature between 5 and 25 bar, and an ionizable salt selected from the group comprising PrI_3, NdI_3 and LuI_3, wherein said ionizable salt further comprises NaI, and wherein the molar ratio NaI/(PrI_3 + NdI_3 + LuI_3) lies between 1.0 and 3.2~~, preferably between 1.2 and 1.8, and more preferably is approximately 1.4~~.

16. (currently amended) A metal halide lamp comprising a substantially cylindrical discharge vessel (3) having an internal diameter Di < 2.0 mm and filled with an ionizable filling, wherein two electrodes are present at a mutual distance EA for maintaining a discharge in the discharge vessel, wherein the filling comprises an inert gas such as Xe

having a pressure at room temperature between 5 and 25 bar, and an ionizable salt selected from the group comprising PrI_3, NdI_3 and LuI_3, wherein the amount of LuI_3 in the discharge vessel is between 15 and 414 µmol/cm^3~~, preferably between 27 and 230 µmol/cm^3, more preferably approximately 69 µmol/cm^3~~.

17. (new) A lamp according to claim 3, wherein the molar ratio NaI/PrI_3 lies between, preferably between 3.0 and 5.7.

18. (new) A lamp according to claim 17, wherein the molar ratio NaI/PrI_3 is approximately 3.5.

19. (new) A lamp according to claim 4, wherein the amount of PrI_3 in the discharge vessel is between 25 and 160 µmol/cm^3.

20. (new) A lamp according to claim 19, wherein the amount of PrI_3 in the discharge vessel is approximately 50 µmol/cm^3.

21. (new) A lamp according to claim 5, wherein the molar ratio NaI/NdI_3 lies between 3.6 and 4.8.

22. (new) A lamp according to claim 21, wherein the molar ratio NaI/NdI_3 is approximately 4.2.

23. (new) A lamp according to claim 6, wherein the amount of NdI_3 in the discharge vessel is between 30 and 167 µmol/cm^3.

24. (new) A lamp according to claim 23, wherein the amount of NdI_3 in the discharge vessel is approximately 45 µmol/cm^3.

25. (new) A lamp according to claim 7, wherein the molar ratio NaI/LuI_3 lies between 1.2 and 1.8.

26. (new) A lamp according to claim 25, wherein the molar ratio NaI/LuI_3 is approximately 1.4.

27. (new) A lamp according to claim 8, wherein the amount of LuI_3 in the discharge vessel is between 27 and 230 $\mu mol/cm^3$.

28. (new) A lamp according to claim 27, wherein the amount of LuI_3 in the discharge vessel is approximately 69 $\mu mol/cm^3$.

29. (new) A lamp according to claim 14, wherein the amount of NdI_3 in the discharge vessel is between 30 and 167 $\mu mol/cm^3$.

30. (new) A lamp according to claim 29, wherein the amount of NdI_3 in the discharge vessel is approximately 45 $\mu mol/cm^3$.

31. (new) A lamp according to claim 15, wherein the molar ratio $NaI/(PrI_3 + NdI_3 + LuI_3)$ lies between 1.2 and 1.8.

32. (new) A lamp according to claim 31, wherein the molar ratio $NaI/(PrI_3 + NdI_3 + LuI_3)$ is approximately 1.4.

33. (new) A lamp according to claim 16, wherein the amount of LuI_3 in the discharge vessel is between 27 and 230 $\mu mol/cm^3$.

34. (new) A lamp according to claim 33, wherein the amount of LuI_3 in the discharge vessel is approximately 69 $\mu mol/cm^3$.